

Town of Hanover Conservation Commission
Hanover Town Hall, 550 Hanover St., 2nd Floor Meeting Room
MINUTES for December 3rd, 2014
Approved 12/17/14



Those Members and Staff present: Lou Paradis, Chairman; Lisa Satterwhite, Vice Chairman; William Woodward, Commissioner; Frank Brierley, Hearing Officer; Justin Shepard, Commissioner; Amy Walkey, Conservation Agent; Sandra MacFarlane, Asst. Conservation Agent
Those Members not present: Brian McLoone, Associate Member
Others: As per sign-in sheet.

6:30 PM - Chairman Paradis opened the meeting and made the following announcements:

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS & DATES TO REMEMBER:

1. Next Meeting- Dec. 17, 2014 @ 6:30 PM in 2nd Flr. Mtg Room - Town Hall

II. ACTION ITEMS:

Requests for Certificates of Compliance: none

III. ADMINISTRATIVE:

1. Holiday Meeting Schedule and Annual Meeting Schedule

- a. January 2015 meetings - Jan. 7 and Jan. 21
- b. Current annual schedule- each 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

VOTE: Upon a motion and second by Commissioners Brierley and Shepard, it was voted 5-0-0 to maintain the annual schedule for the Commission with no changes.

2. Agent's Report- The Conservation Agent reported on the following topics:

- a. Open Space request to use funds for purchase of a brush cutter for trail maintenance: It was explained that the request was not approved and that Victor Diniak, DPW Supt. will be contacted for loan of equipment.
- b. Open Space request to change hunting signage: The Commission approved the following language-
"NO HUNTING - EXCEPT FOR ARCHERY SEASON"
- c. Open Space- possible donations and/or purchases- rear 1127 Main St. and off Winter St. properties, and Oakland Ave. (for conservation restriction) were reviewed resulting in the support of the off Winter St. and Oakland Ave proposals, but did not support purchase of the 1127 rear Main St. property.
- d. The Commission reviewed the newspaper article regarding yard waste and cleanup cautions near wetlands and commended the Agent for its success. The Agent added concerns with dumping of deer carcasses near trails on Open Space parcels and said that she will look into the issue further.
- e. 1566 Hanover St. - unauthorized work in wet meadow area

3. Minor Activities and Event Permits- none

4. Minutes- 11/19/14

VOTE: Upon a motion and second made by Commissioners Brierley and Woodward, it was voted 3-0-2 (Commissioners Satterwhite and Woodward abstained) to approve the minutes.

5. Correspondence- Read without comment.

6. Other: *Those items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting-*None

7:00 PM

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **BL 14-49, Hackett's Pond Trail Project.**~ RDA~ *clearing for new walking trail on Hackett's Pond Parcel.*

PRESENT: Joseph Personeault, Eagle Scout Candidate~ Hanover Troop #1; Pamela Musk, Exec. Director, South Shore Natural Science Center, Norwell, MA; Victor Diniak, Hanover DPW Supt.

DISCUSSION: Scout Personeault presented a plan showing a proposed walking trail along the westerly side of Hackett's Pond with a woodchip surface. He pointed out that the wetlands were recently flagged, that the project included maintenance and limited vista pruning of existing overgrown vegetation, and that the walking trail would be kept 25 ft. from the flags. To enhance the trail experience, he proposed educational signage.

Chairman Paradis read a letter of support into the record from Town Manager Troy Clarkson.

The Agent added that as a result of a site inspection with the applicant and the property owner, she found the area to be previously disturbed with foot paths and partial trails that were overgrown and overhung with low hanging tree branches. She noted that the project will enhance the area and meets the criteria for an exempt activity under the MA Wetlands Protection Act, therefore was an allowed use under the Act. She also explained the Request for Determination process and that the Commission would consider a waiver to the Hanover Wetlands Protection Bylaw to allow the project to go forward.

Pamela Musk, Executive Director of the South Shore Natural Science Center (SSNSC) in Norwell, MA, noted that the parcel was owned by the Science Center. She stated that the Center brought the project forward to increase and encourage community enjoyment of the natural setting and pond.

Roger Leslie, Hackett's Pond Committee member, 671 Webster St., noted that the area is used by many residents. He stated that he encouraged the project, adding that removal of invasive plants will help to curtail their reappearance. He offered support of the project and help to put up the signage.

Abutter Anthony LaRose, 55 Hackett's Pond Rd., added that he would like to see signage for limited parking hours. Victor Diniak, Hanover DPW Supt. stated that he will work with Scout Personeault regarding signage.

Abutter Sandra Pollack, 1000 Main St., noted that she did not support the project, that she had concerns with disturbance to animal and fowl habitat, the small size of the lot, removal of vegetation and mature trees for new trails, and the fragility of the overall site and pond. She stated for the record that she will appeal the Commission's decision if the project is allowed.

Director Musk explained that representatives from Eastern Nazarene College had determined as a result of site review, that the area was not ecologically sensitive and that the trails act to enhance the habitat.

Abutter Carol LaRose, 55 Hackett's Pond Dr., confirmed that bike trails exist on the site, as well as foot paths to the pond and noted that she has no objections to the project. She did note concerns with existing loitering issues and thanked Supt. Diniak for his help with the signage.

Commissioner Woodward noted the appeal deadlines.

VOTE: Based on the discussion above and upon a motion made by Commissioners Brierley and Shepard, it was voted 5-0-0 to close the hearing.

VOTE: Upon a motion made by Commissioners Brierley and Woodward, it was voted 5-0-0 to issue a Negative #3 Determination of Applicability.

Public Hearings continued from 11/19/14 meeting:

2. **BL 14-46, SE 31-1098, #637 Washington St., Starland Exp. Phase II.**~ NOI~ *for parking expansion & stormwater improvements*

PRESENT: none

VOTE: As per the Applicant's request, upon a motion and second made by Commissioners Brierley and Satterwhite, it was voted 5-0-0 to continue the hearing to January 21, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

3. **BL 14-32, SE 31-1094, #1810 Washington St.**~ NOI~ *for demo of 4 buildings and construct new building up to BVW*

PRESENT: Deborah Keller, PE, McKenzie Engineering Group, Inc., Applicant's Representative; Brian Murphy, Applicant

DISCUSSION: Ms. Keller presented a revised plan dated 12/01/14. She explained that revisions were made in response to recommendations made by the Planning Board's engineering consultant, David Nyman, PE, CEI. She gave a brief history of the project, noting that the proposed mitigation plan had been approved and accepted by the Commission's wetland consultant, Arthur Allen, EcoTech, Inc.

The Agent confirmed that the Planning Board hearings were concluded and that the revised plan was acceptable.

VOTE: Based on the discussion above and revised plan submittal, and upon a motion and second made by Commissioners Shepard and Brierley, it was voted 5-0-0 to close the hearing.

VOTE: In order for the Commission to review the draft Order of Conditions, and upon a motion and second made by Commissioners Shepard and Brierley, it was voted 5-0-0 to place review and signing of the permit on the 12/17/14 agenda.

7:56 PM - Upon a motion and second made by Commissioners Brierley and Shepard, it was voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by
Sandra D. MacFarlane, DMI Asst. Conservation Agent

Documents provided at meeting:

- 12-05-14 Agenda
- Draft 11/19/14 Minutes
- RDA packet for Hackett's Pond Trail Project
- 12/3/14 Support letter from Town Manager Troy Clarkson re: Eagle Scout Project
- 11/19/14 letter Environmental Letter Report from Valarie Massard, AICP, CFM
- 1810 Washington St. - Revised Plan dated 12/01/14
- 11/14/14 letter from John Thomson re: manure issue at DPW site
- 12/02/14 letter from DEP re: 3:00 PM site inspection 12/16/14 at The Village at Seven Springs
- 12/03/14 E-mail from DEP re: *10 new Minor Activities* as per WPA
- 11/21/14 letter from Planet Subaru re: Thank You
- 11/26/14 letter from Hanover Public Schools re: Thank You
- 11/24/14 letter of intent from National Grid re: Rights-of-Way herbicide spraying